

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

Initially, the courtesies extending by Examiner Vo during the interview conducted on October 21, 2003, are greatly appreciated.

During the interview, it was expressed to Examiner Vo that the patent to Kitamura et al., i.e. U.S. Patent No. 5,740,604, and the instant application were commonly owned at the time of filing the instant application, i.e. March 24, 2000. It was agreed that were this statement submitted as part of a formal response, then the current prior art rejections would not be maintained.

The 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, rejection was also discussed, and Applicants' undersigned representative proposed to amend claim 15 by removing therefrom the language that forms the basis of the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, rejection. Examiner Vo indicated that the removal of this language would apparently overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, rejection.

Also, the movement of the mounting head sections in two directions was also discussed, and Examiner Vo indicated that these directions should be more clearly recited in the claims so as to preclude these directions from being read on any two perpendicular directions.

Accordingly, by the current Amendment, claims 15, 18 and 23 have been amended along the lines discussed at the interview, and also for clarification purposes. Claims 16, 17 and 19-22 have also been amended for clarification and consistency. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, rejection as expressed in section 2 on page 2 of the Office Action has been overcome. The amendments to the claims are also believed to address the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, concerns expressed in section 4 on page 3 of the Office Action. Claims 15-25 are believed to be in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

With regard to the prior art rejections as expressed in section 6 on pages 3-4 of the Office Action, and section 7 on pages 4-5 of the Office Action, it is hereby stated that U.S. Patent No. 5,740,604 to Kitamura et al. was commonly owned along with the instant application at the time of the filing of the instant application. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Kitamura et al. is not

applicable as prior art with regard to the prior art rejections issued by the Examiner, such that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of claims 15-25 should not be maintained.

Also, in the Office Action mailed August 1, 2003, the Examiner requested that Applicants provide reference numerals to all claimed limitations as well as support in the disclosure for better clarity. Accordingly, in order to aid the Examiner in completely understanding the claimed invention, the following is provided:

the claimed base structure, though not specifically identified in the specification, merely corresponds to a surface that supports the inverted U-shaped support frames, e.g. a floor (the labeling of such a surface is not believed to be necessary);

the claimed first and said inverted U-shaped support frames are identified by reference numeral "29";

the claimed first and second component supply tables are identified by reference numeral "28A", for example, and;

the claimed first and second mounting head sections are identified by reference numeral "31".

Support for the above structure, and how this structure cooperates with one another, can be found throughout the specification and drawings.

If the above is not sufficient to aid the Examiner in fully understanding the invention, then the Examiner is respectfully requested to identify specific issues for which greater clarity or explanation is needed.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner believes that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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